

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 33-64 are pending in this application. Claims 33, 41, 48, 55, and 60 were objected to for informalities. Claims 33-34, 41-42, 48-49, 55, and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent application publication 2001/0014836 A1 to Tamaki et al. (herein "Tamaki"). Claims 35-40, 43-47, 50-54, 56-59, and 61-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tamaki in view of U.S. patent 5,539,652 to Tegethoff.

Addressing first the objection to claims 33, 41, 48, 55, and 60, that rejection is obviated by the present response. Each of the above-noted claims is amended by the present response to no longer recite the term "creating/editing" but to instead recite "creating and/or editing". The claim amendments are believed to address the claim objections.

Addressing now the prior art rejections based on Tamaki, and further in view of Tamaki in view of Tegethoff, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Initially, applicants note each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 33 now clarifies an operation of the "parts information list creating and/or editing device" to clarify that device "to retrieve the structured parts list information stored in the structured parts list information storage based on the input retrieval information, to retrieve the parts information on respective parts corresponding to the retrieved structured parts list information, and to create a parts information list". The other independent claims are similarly amended. Such claimed subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example at page 15, lines 14-24.

The claims as currently written are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

As recited in independent claim 33, a system for creating and/or editing a structured parts list includes a structured parts list information storage configured to store structured parts list information on components including a plurality of parts, and to output the structured parts list information based on input retrieval information. That subject matter is fully supported by the original specification for example in the Resource DB 1 shown in Figure 1 and in steps S1 and S2 in Figure 4. According to features noted above, input retrieval information results in the output of structured parts list information. Further, as recited in new independent claim 33, a parts information storage stores parts information on a plurality of parts and outputs parts information corresponding to the structured parts list information. That feature is fully supported for example by the Approved Parts DB 2 in Figure 1 and in step S3 in figure 4.

As further recited in independent claim 33, a parts information list creating and/or editing device retrieves the structured parts list information stored in the structured parts list information storage based on the input retrieval information, retrieves the parts information on respective parts corresponding to the retrieved structured parts list information, and creates a parts information list using the correspond parts information output from the parts information storage. That subject matter is fully supported for example by the Resource Parts List Creating/Editing Unit 3 in Figure 1 and in step S4 in Figure 4.

Further, a structured parts information list creating and/or editing device creates updated structured parts list information based on the parts information list created by the parts information creating/editing device, and stores the updated structured parts list information in a memory for subsequent access. That subject matter is fully supported for example in the Resource Parts List Creating/Editing Unit 3 and storage unit 6 in Figure 1 and in steps S5-S7 in Figure 4 of the present specification.

First, applicants note that in general Tamaki is directed to a completely different device with a completely different objective as in the claimed features. Tamaki is merely directed to a management of excess and deficiency of parts. In contrast to Tamaki, the present invention is directed to a management that can for example determine whether a part can be used in view of its specification, price, form, and discontinuation.

More particularly, Tamaki is directed to a production system that can access a parts list storage section 2 for storing parts list information and a parts stock storage section 4 for indicating a stock of parts. Tamaki goes on to note the use of a data storage unit 10, a superfluous parts adjusting unit 112, and a deficient parts adjusting unit 111. However, such teachings in Tamaki merely disclose an operation that can ensure the desired parts are in stock.

Applicants respectfully submit the teachings in Tamaki do not fully meet the limitations in claims 33-64.

As noted above, Tamaki is not at all directed to a system for creating and/or editing structured parts list information. Instead Tamaki is directed to a manufacturing system that can ensure that a list of required parts is adequately stocked, and determine whether any parts are deficient or superfluous. Such a structure in Tamaki differs from the claims as currently written.

In further detail, Tamaki clearly fails to teach or suggest the “parts information list creating and/or editing device” as now clarified in the claims. For example as recited in independent claim 33 the claimed system includes:

a parts information list creating and/or editing device
configured to retrieve the structured parts list information
stored in the structured parts list information storage based on
the input retrieval information, to retrieve the parts information
on respective parts corresponding to the retrieved structured
parts list information, and to create a parts information list[.]

The other independent claims recite similar features.

According to the features noted above, a parts information list is created and/or edited based on two different pieces of information. The first piece of information is structured parts list information that is retrieved based on input retrieval information. As a non-limiting example provided for example in the present specification, a structured parts information list can store information directed to previously designed electronic circuit boards and known electronic circuit boards.¹ The second piece of information utilized is parts information on respective parts corresponding to the retrieved structured parts list information. For example such information can include information of parts such as a parts identification, function, name and manufacture, shape, prospect, price, and/or approval data, in addition to including information of other components having functions comparable with one presently retrieved.² Based on those two pieces of information a parts information list is created. Such features are clearly not met by Tamaki.

With respect to the above-noted features the outstanding rejection indicates information in the parts list storage section 2 in Tamaki corresponds to the claimed “structured parts list information”, and information in the parts stock storage section 4 in Tamaki corresponds to the claimed “parts information storage”.³

Applicants note that even if such elements in Tamaki correspond to the claimed features, which applicants dispute, Tamaki does not disclose or suggest creating an additional parts information list based on information in the parts list storage section 2 and information the parts stock storage section 4.

The only reference to the above-noted teaching of creating a parts list information based on the two pieces of information noted above appears to be an indication in the Office

¹ See for example the present specification at page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 6.

² See for example the present specification at page 13, lines 1-11.

³ See for example the Office Action of April 29, 2005, page 7, prenumbered paragraph 9.

Action stating that in Tamaki “The updated structural parts list is provided to the production planning system where it is stored in a data storage unit. See page 18, second column”.⁴

That statement in the outstanding Office Action is not at all understood as first Tamaki does not appear to disclose that any “updated structural parts list” is created based on retrieving (1) “the structured parts list information stored in the structured parts list information storage based on the input retrieval information”, and retrieving (2) “the parts information on respective parts corresponding to the retrieved structured parts list information”.

Further, at page 18, second column Tamaki only provides broad indications of making adjustments to eliminate superfluous parts and changing a production plan based on recognized deficient parts. However, such teachings do not correspond to the claimed features noted above.

Moreover, applicants respectfully submit Tamaki fails to teach or suggest “creating an updated structured parts list information based on the parts information list created by the parts information list creating and/or editing device, and to store the updated structured parts list information in a memory for subsequent access”, as specifically required in independent claim 33, and as similarly required in other claims.

With respect to that feature the outstanding Office Action again cites Tamaki with respect to disclosing an adjusting means in which superfluous or deficient parts are identified. However, such teachings in Tamaki are not directed to the claimed features.

As noted above, in the claims an updated structural parts list information is stored in a memory. The Office Action at one point indicates that such a claimed feature corresponds to the parts list stored in the parts list storage section 2 in Tamaki. However, as is clear from the

⁴ Office Action of April 29, 2005, page 4, lines 12-13.

disclosure in Tamaki no operation of the deficient parts adjusting unit 111 and superfluous parts adjusting unit 112 result in changing the data stored in the parts list storage section 2.

That is, in the claims the structured parts information list creating and/or editing device stores updated structured parts list information. For Tamaki to meet such a claim limitation in the way that Tamaki is cited against the claims, Tamaki would have to operate so that the deficient parts adjusting unit 111 and superfluous parts adjusting unit 112 resulted in changing the information stored in the parts list storage section 2. Tamaki does not disclose or suggest such a structure, nor has the Office Action pointed to any disclosure in Tamaki that provides such a teaching.

One basis for the maintaining the rejection states that in Tamaki “If there are deficient parts or superfluous parts, the parts list information is adjusted to eliminate the deficient parts as well as superfluous parts”.⁵

The above-noted statement citing the teachings in Tamaki is believed to be improper as Tamaki is not believed to teach or suggest that the deficient parts adjusting unit 111 or superfluous parts adjusting unit 112 adjusts information in the parts list storage section 2. The outstanding Office Action has not cited to any teaching in Tamaki to provide that disclosure, and the outstanding art rejection appears to misconstrue the teachings in Tamaki in that respect. Simply, Tamaki does not appear to disclose or suggest such an operation.

In such ways, the reliance in the Office Action on the teachings of adjusting for superfluous or deficient parts in Tamaki misconstrues those teachings in Tamaki relative to the claimed features. The claims clearly recite updating the structured parts list information, which is not performed by adjusting for superfluous or deficient parts in Tamaki.

In such ways, each of the independent claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to distinguish over Tamaki.

⁵ Office Action of May 29, 2005, page 3, lines 10-12 of prenumbered paragraph 6.

Moreover, applicants respectfully submit the outstanding rejection has not properly considered features in the dependent claims, such as dependent claims 34, 42, and 49, setting forth specifics of the parts information including at least one of “an identification, a function, a manufacture, a feature of at least one of size and shape, a future prospect, a price, and approval data related to approval and non-approval for use”. With respect to the above-noted features the outstanding Office Action states “Tamaki teaches that the parts information in storage may include information regarding a name of the part, a feature such as quantity consumed, a cost evaluation module, etc. See figures 24-27”.⁶

That basis for the outstanding rejection is not understood as first any disclosure in Tamaki of storing information of a name of a part, a feature such as quantity consumed, a cost evaluation module, etc. does not correspond to the claimed features. The claims do not recite any of a name, feature such as quantity consumed, and cost evaluation module. The outstanding rejection is simply not properly reading the claimed features set forth in claims 34, 42, and 49.

Such differences between the claimed invention and the teachings in Tamaki result because Tamaki is directed to a different device than in the claimed invention. Tamaki is directed to a manufacturing system that ensures that parts are adequately stocked. Tamaki does not disclose or suggest management that can determine whether a part can be used in view of its specification, price, form, and discontinuation.

In such ways, the above-noted claims as currently written even further clearly distinguish over Tamaki.

Further, with respect to the further rejection based on Tamaki in view of Tegethoff, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

⁶ Office Action of April 29, 2005, page 4, last paragraph.

Tegethoff is directed to a method for manufacturing test simulation in electronic circuit design and relates to a tradeoff between productivity and design property.

The device disclosed by Tegethoff has no relation whatsoever to the device of Tamaki. Tamaki as noted above is directed to a system to ensure that parts are adequately stocked. Tegethoff is not directed to any type of such system and thus has no relevance whatsoever to the teachings in Tamaki.

The motivation set forth in the Office Action to combine the teachings in Tegethoff relative to those of Tamaki is also improper. More specifically, the Office Action states the teachings of prediction concerning operation, simulation, etc. in Tegethoff could be applied to the teachings in Tamaki “because early prediction of manufacturing behavior drives design changes which optimize the product’s manufacturability and testability, thus improving product quality and reducing cost and utilizing a parts list would help facilitate this prediction”.⁷

The above-noted basis for the outstanding rejection is believed to be clearly improper as Tamaki is not directed to a device that would have any benefit from “driving design changes”. Tamaki is clearly directed to a device utilized well after any type of design is implemented as Tamaki is directed to a device to ensure that parts are adequately stocked; which clearly takes place well after any design is implemented. The test simulation in electronic circuit design in Tegethoff has no relevance whatsoever to such a system as in Tamaki. Further, what the basis for the outstanding rejection has not even considered or addressed is why the noted teachings in Tegethoff would be relative to Tamaki as Tamaki is not directed to any “prediction concerning operation, simulation, etc.”.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit all the further combination of teachings of Tamaki in view of Tegethoff is traversed by the present response.

⁷ Office Action of May 29, 2005, middle of page 6.

In view of the present response, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

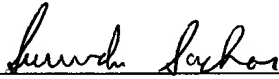
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